

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 YAOUND 00237 181405Z

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 DODE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

MC-02 /059 W

-----181408Z 079570 /53

P 181330Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 739

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0237

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ACOM, CM

SUBJECT: CHIEF OF PROTOCOL ON WATTS

REFS: (A) STATE 307467; (B) YAOUNDE 22 AND PREVIOUS

1. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL GABRIEL HAPI TINA INVITED VISITING DEPUTY DIRECTOR AF/EX RICHARD SALAZAR, WHO IS OLD PERSONAL FRIEND OF HAPI'S, AND AMBASSADOR TO CALL UPON HIM LATE ON JANUARY 17 AFTER CONCLUSION OF FOURTH NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CAMEROON NATIONAL UNION, WHICH HAD KEPT HIM BUSY OVER WEEKEND. SURPRISINGLY EARLY DURING CONVERSATION, AND ENTIRELY ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE, HAPI SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF WATTS REQUEST AND THAT HE HAD TALKED TO EGBE TABI, MINISTER OF STATE FOR POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS, ABOUT THE MATTER, AND WOULD TALK TO HIM AGAIN.
2. SALAZAR BRIEFLY DESCRIBED PURPOSE OF WATTS AND HAPI INDICATED THAT HE WAS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE PROJECT. HE SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED IT A GOOD THING, BECAUSE "AMERICAN CAPITAL WOULD FOLLOW." HE ASKED AMBASSADOR WHO IN GURC, IN ADDITION TO PRESIDENT AHIDJO, WAS FAMILIAR WITH OUR REQUEST, AND WAS TOLD: SECRETARY GENERAL EBOUA, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL BOUBA BELLO, AND FONMIN KEUTCHA.
3. WHEN AMBASSADOR ASKED HOW "THOROUGH STUDY," WHICH EMBASSY

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PAGE 02 YAOUND 00237 181405Z

HAD BEEN INFORMED WAS BEING CONDUCT OF PROPOSAL, WAS COMING ALONG, AND SALAZAR SUGGESTED THAT SUCH STUDIES IN SOME COUNTRIES LEAD TO EVERYONE FORGETTING ABOUT PROPOSAL, HAPI RESPONDED RATHER FIRMLY THAT IF GURC HAD WANTED TO FORGET ABOUT OR TURN US DONE, THEY WOULD HAVE DONE SO BY NOW. HAPI CONCLUDED THIS PART OF CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE WOULD TALK TO PRESIDENT AHIDJO ABOUT MATTER. HIS DEMEANOR WAS INTERPRETED BY BOTH OF US AS SUGGESTING THAT HAPI

THINKS REQUEST WILL BE APPROVED AND HE WILL EXERT HIMSELF ON ITS BEHALF.

4. COMMENT: WE RARELY DEAL WITH HAPI ON SUBSTANTIVE BILATERAL MATTERS, EXCEPT FOR BUYING/TRADING/RENTING REAL ESTATE FROM HIM OR PUTTING HIM IN TOUCH WITH AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN. IN COURSE OF THIS CONVERSATION, HE ALSO SPENT SOME TIME DISCUSSING ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND ORGANIZATION OF WEST AFRICA AND WHE HE CALLED "LATIN AFRICA" (TO BE REPORTED IN SEPTTEL). WE HAVE NO WAY OF TELLING WHETHER AND TO WHAT EXTENT HAPI HAS BEEN CLUED IN TO GURC'S INTERNAL WATTS DELIBERATIONS, BUT SINCE HE IS CLOSE TO PRESIDENT AHIDJO, HIS SUPPORT WILL IN ANY CASE DO US NO HARM. END COMMENT.

5. POSTSCRIPT: WHEN HAPI CAME TO AIRPORT TO SEE SALAZAR OFF JAN 18, HE TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD ALREADY SENT NOTE ON WATTS TO PRESIDENT.  
SPIRO

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, ACOM, CM, US, (HAPI TINA, GABRIEL)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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